

Williams Lime Plant Adding Another Kiln

Installation of a second kiln at the Washington Brick and Lime company near Williams has been underway since the middle of June and excavation work and laying of the reinforced concrete foundation has been completed.

The new kiln will have a capacity of 15 tons of burned lime every 24 hours, compared with 10 ton capacity of the present kiln. It is a 40 foot kiln with a 20 foot stack and will be heated by four fire boxes. It is located about 40 feet south of the old kiln. Excavation of the hillside 19 feet below the present stoking floor was done by power shovel under contract with the Trumix Concrete company of Medford, which also laid the concrete for the foundation.

The old kiln, shut down for repairs since July 4, is now in operation.

Two kilns that have never been used were purchased by the company from an Orofino, Idaho cement company and one kiln is now on the ground at Williams. Installation of the third kiln is expected to take place next year.

The second kiln is being installed in an effort to produce material to fill war orders that have swamped the company, according to V. Z. McCrary, superintendent of the plant. All types of burned lime products are now being sold for war materials, for housing projects, airports, etc., he said.

Here to supervise installation of the new equipment is C. H. Link, Spokane, engineer for the Washington Brick and Lime Co., for the past 34 years.

Chairman of the board of the lime company is Eric Johnson, president of the United States Chamber of Commerce. Johnson recently returned from a good will tour to South America for the U. S. government and expects to leave soon for a similar tour to England. He is the author of several leading articles in recent magazines, including one in Reader's Digest and Liberty.

Neal Fosseen, now a commissioned officer in the south Pacific with the marines, is president of the organization. He has been a Grants Pass visitor many times.

Washington Brick and Lime company have two other plants, at Clayton, Wash., for brick and terracotta and at Dishman, Wash., where sewer pipe and tiling brick are manufactured. The Williams operation is its only lime plant, however.

The Washington company took over the plant from the Oregon Lime Products company in 1940 and McCrary has been in charge of operations since December of that year. Lime rock comes from two quarries on the hill in back of the plant. Grinding equipment prepares the raw rock for agricultural flour, limestone grit and other crushed rock products.

A hydrator was installed at a cost of about \$25,000 before the Washington company purchased the plant and all types of burned and hydrated lime are sold. Sixteen men are employed at the plant and an additional 8 to 10 will be put on the payrolls on completion of the new kiln in about 90 days. The operation is powered by steam.

The lime rock is of unusual purity, running 99 per cent calcium carbonate and most of it is pure white.

G. R. Courier 8/6/43